

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.



Listing of the Claims

1-249. (Canceled)

250. (Original) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand for a number of users, the system comprising:

a remote media server configured to store and play back programs on-demand for each user;

an Internet service system configured to:

provide a record request to the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

provide a playback request to the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program on-demand with the remote media server, and wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

record a program in response to the record request provided by the Internet service system; and

play back a program in response to the playback request provided by the Internet service system.

251-570. (Canceled)

571. (Currently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand by a remote media server for a number of users, the system comprising:

a remote media server configured to record and play back programs on-demand;

an Internet service system; and

an online interactive television program guide implemented at least in part on the Internet service system [[and]] wherein the interactive television program guide is configured to:

~~provide the user with an opportunity to indicate~~ a record request to the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record at least one program with the remote media server;

record the at least one program in response to the record request provided by the interactive television program guide which is implemented at least in part on the Internet service system;

provide the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the programs with the remote media server; and

provide a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server, wherein the programs recorded by the remote media server were indicated by the user for recording by the remote media server.

572. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by title in response to the user indicating a

desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

573. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by theme in response to the user indicating a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

574. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to overlay the directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server over a program that the user is watching in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server.

575. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a retrieval request in response to a user indicating a desire to play back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

the remote media server is configured to retrieve the at least one program in response to the retrieval request generated by the interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to store the retrieved program for playback.

576. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display information about at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the at least one program recorded by the remote media server.

577. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to fast-forward a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward the program with the interactive television program guide.

578. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to rewind a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

579. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to stop a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

580. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to pause a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a

desire to pause the program with the interactive television program guide.

581. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

582. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to automatically cache all current programs; and

the remote media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to a user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

583. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to delete a program recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

584. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to automatically delete programs recorded by the remote media server.

585. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to:

provide [[a]] the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

the remote media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence.

586. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the Internet service system is further configured to transmit programs recorded by the remote media server as files; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to store the files for playback.

587. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to store and play back on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to present program guide data to a user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

588. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a record request in response to a user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

the remote media server:

comprises a consolidator configured to consolidate multiple record requests for a program into a single job; and

is further configured to record a single copy of a program for multiple users according to the job.

589. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predefined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to record the program when at least the predefined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

590. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to record the program on physical media that is sent to users who requested the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

591. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the system comprises a local media server configured to:

record a program in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program with the interactive television program guide; and

play back the program in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program with the interactive television program guide.

592. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server; and

provide a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server, wherein the programs recorded by the local media server were indicated by the user for recording by the local media server.

593. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by title for programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for programs recorded by the local media server.

594. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server.

595. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein:



the interactive television program guide is further configured to overlay a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server over a program that the user is watching response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

596. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein:

the interactive program guide television equipment comprises user television equipment having storage;

the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program recorded by the local media server;

the local media server retrieves a program and provides it to the user television equipment in response to the retrieval request generated by the interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to store the retrieved program on the storage for playback on the user television equipment.

597. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display information about a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the program recorded by the local media server.

598. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to fast-forward a program that is being played

back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward a program with the interactive television program guide.

599. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to rewind a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

600. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to stop a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

601. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to pause a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program with the interactive television program guide.

602. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

603. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein:

the local media server is further configured to automatically cache all current programs; and

the local media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

604. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to delete a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

605. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to automatically delete programs recorded by the local media server.

606. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

the local media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence.

607. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein:

the local media server is further configured to store and play back on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the local media server; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to present program guide data to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

608. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to direct the local media server to record the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

609. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to direct the interactive television program guide to record the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

610. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program; and

the remote media server is configured to record the purchased pay-per-view program.

611. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to

purchase a pay-per-view program package having at least one pay-per-view program; and

the remote media server is configured to record the at least one pay-per-view program.

612. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to indicate a program grouping having at least one program for recording with the remote media server; and

the remote media server is configured to record the at least one indicated program of the program grouping.

613. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user that the at least one program cannot be recorded because the program is copy protected.

614. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to prevent the user from indicating the at least one program for recording by the remote media server when the program is copy protected.

615. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to record program associated data for the at least one program indicated by the user.

616. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 615, wherein the program associated data comprises interactive content.

617. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server, wherein the programs were indicated by the user for recording by the remote media server.

618. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view program listings.

619. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is to be recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view program listings.

620. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information identifies the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

621. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information is for the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for recording programs.

622. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on the length of the program.

623. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

624. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

625. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

626. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:



the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

627. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for playing back programs.

628. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on the length of the program.

629. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

630. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to play back with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back programs with the remote media server.

631. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to play back with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

632. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs cached by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates a program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for caching a program in real time with the remote media server.

633. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs cached by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for caching programs.

634. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs cached by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates a program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on the length of the program.

635. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

636. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

637. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

638. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program with the remote media server.

639. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program with the remote media server.

640. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set an audio format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to record programs in the audio format.

641. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set a video format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to record programs in the video format.

642. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set a language in which program audio on a digital audio track is recorded by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to record program audio in the language.

643. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

automatically cache current programs that are being viewed by users; and

play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

644. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

automatically cache current programs that are being viewed by a subset of the users; and

play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

645. (Previously presented) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and retrieved on-demand for a number of users, the system comprising:

a remote media server configured to store and retrieve programs on-demand;

an Internet service system; and

an online interactive television program guide implemented at least in part on the Internet service system and wherein the interactive television program guide is configured to:

generate a record request in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

generate a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program on-demand with the remote media server, and wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

record a program in response to the record request generated by the interactive television program guide; and

retrieve a program in response to the retrieval request generated by the interactive television program guide.

646. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 645, wherein the Internet service system is configured to distribute programs to each user as at least ~~[[on]]~~ one file.

647. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 645, wherein the Internet service system is configured to distribute programs to each user in digital data streams.

648. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 645, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to play back a program that was retrieved by the remote media server.

649. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 645, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to store and retrieve on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to present program guide data to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

650. (New) A method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which television programs



are recorded and retrieved on-demand for a number of users, the method comprising:

- providing an online interactive television program guide implemented at least partially on an Internet service system;

- generating a record request with the interactive television program guide in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

- generating a retrieval request with the interactive television program guide in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program on-demand with the remote media server;

- recording a program in response to the record request generated by the interactive television program guide; and

- retrieving a program in response to the retrieval request generated by the interactive television program guide.

651. (New) The method defined in claim 650, further comprising distributing with the Internet service system programs to each user as at least one file.

652. (New) The method defined in claim 650, further comprising distributing programs with the Internet service system to each user in digital data streams.

653. (New) The method defined in claim 650, further comprising playing back a program that was retrieved by the remote media server.

654. (New) The method defined in claim 650, further comprising:

storing with the remote media server on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server;

retrieving with the remote media server on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server; and

displaying program guide data to the user with the interactive television program guide as if an associated program were being originally aired.

655. (New) The system of claim 250, wherein the Internet service system is further configured to provide a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

656. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide that is configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by title in response to the user indicating a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

657. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide that is configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by theme in response to the user indicating a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

658. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an interactive television program guide that is configured to overlay a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server over a program that the user is watching on the user television equipment in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server.

659. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein:

the Internet service system is further configured to provide a retrieval request to the remote media server in response to a user indicating a desire to play back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

the remote media server is further configured to retrieve the at least one program and provide the at least one program to user television equipment in response to the retrieval request provided by the Internet service system; and

the user television equipment is configured to store the retrieved program on storage for playback on the user television equipment.

660. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide that is configured to display information about at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the at least one program recorded by the remote media server.

661. (New) The system defined in claim 250,  
wherein:

the Internet service system is further configured to provide a fast-forward request to the remote media server in response to a user indicating a desire to fast-forward a program that is being played back by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to fast-forward the program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the fast-forward request provided by the Internet service system.

662. (New) The system defined in claim 250,  
wherein:

the Internet service system is further configured to provide a rewind request to the remote media server in response to a user indicating a desire to rewind a program that is being played back by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to rewind the program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the rewind request provided by the Internet service system.

663. (New) The system defined in claim 250,  
wherein:

the Internet service system is further configured to provide a stop request to the remote media server in response to a user indicating a desire to stop a program that is being played back by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to stop the program that is being played back by the remote

media server in response to the stop request provided by the Internet service system.

664. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein:

the Internet service system is further configured to provide a pause request to the remote media server in response to a user indicating a desire to pause a program that is being played back by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to pause the program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the pause request provided by the Internet service system.

665. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein the remote media server is further configured to cache at least a portion of a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

666. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to automatically cache all current programs;

the Internet service system is further configured to provide a playback request to the remote media server for a cached program when a user indicates a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program; and

the remote media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a cached program in

response to the playback request provided by the Internet service system.

667. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein:

the Internet service system is further configured to provide a delete request to the remote media server in response to a user indicating a desire to delete a recorded program with the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to delete a program recorded by the remote media server in response to the delete request provided by the Internet service system.

668. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein the remote media server is further configured to automatically delete programs recorded by the remote media server.

669. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide that is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence, wherein the remote media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence.

670. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising distribution equipment and user television equipment having storage;

the distribution equipment is configured to transmit programs recorded by the remote media server as files; and

the user television equipment is configured to store the files on the storage for playback.

671. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising user television equipment, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to store and play back on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server; and

an interactive television program guide that is further configured to present program guide data on the user television equipment to a user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

672. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein the remote media server:

comprises a consolidator configured to consolidate multiple record requests for the program into a single job; and

is further configured to record a single copy of the program for multiple users according to the job.

673. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predefined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to record the program when at least the predefined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

674. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to record the

program on physical media that is sent to users who requested the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

675. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein the system comprises a local media server configured to store and play back programs on-demand for at least one user, wherein:

the Internet service system is configured to:  
provide the record request to the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program on-demand with the local media server; and  
provide the playback request to the local media server when the user indicates a desire to play back the program on-demand with the local media server, and  
wherein

the local media server is further configured to:

record the program in response to the record request provided by the Internet service system; and  
play back the program in response to the playback request provided by the Internet service system.

676. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising:

a local media server configured to store and playback programs on-demand; and  
an online interactive television program guide configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server; and



provide a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server, wherein the programs recorded by the local media server were indicated by the user for recording by the local media server.

677. (New) The system defined in 676, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by title for programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for programs recorded by the local media server.

678. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server.

679. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to overlay a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server over a program that the user is watching response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

680. (New) The system defined in claim 676 further comprising interactive program guide television equipment that comprises user television equipment having storage, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program recorded by the local media server;

the local media server retrieves a program and provides it to the user television equipment in response to the retrieval request generated by the interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to store the retrieved program on the storage for playback on the user television equipment.

681. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display information about a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the program recorded by the local media server.

682. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the local media server is further configured to fast-forward a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward a program with the interactive television program guide.

683. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the local media server is further configured to rewind a program that is being played back by the local media

server in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

684. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the local media server is further configured to stop a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

685. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the local media server is further configured to pause a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program with the interactive television program guide.

686. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the local media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

687. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein:

the local media server is further configured to automatically cache all current programs; and

the local media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

688. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a playback request indicating a first user when a second user indicates a desire to record a program on the local media server for the first user; and

the local media server is further configured to record the program for the first user in response to the playback request.

689. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the local media server is further configured to delete a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

690. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the local media server is further configured to automatically delete programs recorded by the local media server.

691. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

the local media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence.

692. (New) The system defined in claim 676, further comprising interactive program guide television equipment that comprises user television equipment, wherein:

the local media server is further configured to store and play back on-demand program guide data

associated with the programs stored by the local media server; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to present program guide data on the user television equipment to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

693. (New) The system defined in claim 676, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to direct the local media server to record the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

694. (New) The system defined in claim 676, further comprising interactive program guide television equipment that comprises user television equipment having storage, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to direct the interactive television program guide to record the program on the storage when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

695. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to provide the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program, wherein the remote media server is configured to record the purchased pay-per-view program.

696. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to provide the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program package having at least one pay-per-view program, wherein the remote media server is configured to record the at least one pay-per-view program.

697. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to provide the user with an opportunity to indicate a program grouping having at least one program for recording with the remote media server; and wherein the remote media server is configured to record the at least one indicated program of the program grouping.

698. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to indicate to the user that the at least one program cannot be recorded because the program is copy protected.

699. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to prevent the user from indicating the at least one program for recording by the remote media server when the program is copy protected.

700. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to record program associated data for the program indicated by the user.

701. (New) The system defined in claim 700, wherein the program associated data comprises interactive content.

702. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to display a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server, wherein the programs were indicated by the user for recording by the remote media server.

703. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to display program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view program listings.

704. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to display program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is to be recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view program listings.

705. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising a billing system configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the remote media server for the user, wherein the remote media server is further configured to

generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information identifies the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

706. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising a billing system configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the remote media server for the user, wherein the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information is for at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for recording programs.

707. (New) The system in claim 250 further comprising a billing system configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the remote media server for the user, wherein the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on the length of the program.



708. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to indicate to the user a charge for at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

709. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to indicate to the user a charge for at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

710. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to indicate to the user a charge for at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

711. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user, wherein the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

712. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user, wherein the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for playing back programs.

713. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user, wherein the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on the length of the program.

714. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to indicate to the user a charge for at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

715. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to indicate to the user a charge for at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to play back with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back programs with the remote media server.

716. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to indicate to the user a charge for at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to play back with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

717. (New) The system defined in claim 250,  
wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs cached by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates a program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for caching a program in real time with the remote media server.

718. (New) The system defined in claim 250,  
wherein:

the remote media server is further configured  
to cache a program in response to the user indicating a  
desire to cache a program;

the system further comprises a billing system  
configured to charge the user for programs cached by the  
remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured  
to generate billing information used by the billing system  
when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the  
program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based  
on a flat fee for caching programs.

719. (New) The system defined in claim 250,  
wherein:

the remote media server is further configured  
to cache a program in response to the user indicating a  
desire to cache the program with an online interactive  
television program guide;

the system further comprises a billing system  
configured to charge the user for programs cached by the  
remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured  
to generate billing information used by the billing system  
when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates a  
program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based  
on the length of the program.

720. (New) The system defined in claim 250,  
wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with an online interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

721. (New) The system defined in claim 250,  
wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with an online interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

722. (New) The system defined in claim 250,  
wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with an online interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a

program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

723. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to provide the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program with the remote media server.

724. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to provide the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program with the remote media server.

725. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set an audio format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server, wherein the remote media server is further configured to record programs in the audio format.

726. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set a video format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server, wherein the remote media server is further configured to record programs in the video format.

727. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising an online interactive television program guide configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set a

language in which program audio on a digital audio track is recorded by the remote media server, wherein the remote media server is further configured to record program audio in the language.

728. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program with the remote media server and to play back the program according to a schedule if less than the predetermined number of users indicated a desire to record the program with the remote media server.

729. (New) The system defined in claim 250 further comprising distribution equipment, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to play back programs according to a schedule; and

the distribution equipment is further configured to distribute programs played back by the remote media server according to the schedule to users who indicated a desire to record the programs with the remote media server.

730. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

automatically cache current programs that are being viewed by users;

play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

731. (New) The system defined in claim 250, wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

automatically cache current programs that are being viewed by a subset of the users; and

play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

732. (New) A method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand by a remote media server for a number of users, the method comprising:

providing a record request to the remote media server with an Internet service system in response to a user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server;

providing a playback request to the remote media server with the Internet service system in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program on-demand with the remote media server;

recording the program with the remote media server in response to the record request provided by the Internet service system; and

playing back the program with the remote media server in response to the playback request provided by the Internet service system.

733. (New) The method defined in claim 732 further comprising providing a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server.



734. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by title for programs recorded by the remote media server; and

displaying the directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view the directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

735. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server; and

displaying the directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view the directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

736. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising overlaying a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server over a program that the user is watching in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

737. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

generating a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program that is recorded with the remote media server;

retrieving the program from the remote media server and providing the program to user television equipment in response to the retrieval request; and

storing the retrieved program on storage of the user television equipment for playback.

738. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view information about at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server; and

providing information about the at least one program in response to the user indicating the desire to view information about the at least one program.

739. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to fast-forward the program that is being played back; and

fast-forwarding the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating the desire to fast-forward the program.

740. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to rewind the program that is being played back; and

rewinding the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating the desire to rewind the program.

741. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to stop the program that is being played back; and

stopping the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating the desire to stop the program.

742. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to pause the program that is being played back; and

pausing the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating the desire to pause the program.

743. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to cache the program that is being played back; and

    caching the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating the desire to cache the program.

744. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

    automatically caching all current programs with the remote media server;

    providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view at least a portion of a cached program; and

    playing back at least a portion of the cached program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating the desire to view the portion of the cache program.

745. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

    providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to delete a program that was recorded by the remote media server; and

    deleting the program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program.

746. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising automatically deleting programs with the remote media server.

747. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

playing back at least a portion of a program with the remote media server according to the super-program sequence.

748. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

distributing programs to user television equipment of the user as at least one file; and

storing at least one file on storage in the user television equipment for playback on the user television equipment.

749. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

storing program guide data associated with the programs recorded by the remote media server for the interactive television program guide; and

presenting the program guide data with the interactive television program guide to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

750. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

receiving record requests for the program at the remote media server from user television equipment of a plurality of users;

consolidating the record requests into a single job; and

recording a single copy of the program for the plurality of users according to the job with the remote media server.

751. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program; and  
recording the program indicated by the predetermined number of users with the remote media server in response to the predetermined number of users indicating a desire to record the program.

752. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program; and  
recording the program on physical media that is sent to users who requested the program in response to less than the predetermined number of users indicating a desire to record the program.

753. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

recording a program with a local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program with an online interactive television program guide; and

playing back a program with the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program with the interactive television program guide.

754. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising providing a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

755. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising providing a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the local media server.

756. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising providing a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server.

757. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising overlaying a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server over a program that the user is watching in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of the program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

758. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising:

generating a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program recorded by the local media server;

retrieving the program with the local media server; and

storing the retrieved program for playback.

759. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising displaying information about a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the program recorded by the local media server.

760. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising fast-forwarding a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward the program with the interactive television program guide.

761. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising rewinding a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

762. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising stopping a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

763. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising pausing a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program with the interactive television program guide.



764. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising caching a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

765. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising:

automatically caching all current programs with the local media server; and

playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

766. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising:

generating a playback request indicating a first user when a second user indicates a desire to record a program on the local media server for the first user; and

recording the program with the local media server for the first user in response to the playback request indicating the first user.

767. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising deleting a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

768. (New) The method defined in claim 753, further comprising automatically deleting programs recorded by the local media server.

769. (New) The method defined in claim 753,  
further comprising  
    providing the user with an opportunity to  
define a super-program sequence; and  
    playing back at least a portion of a program  
according to the super-program sequence with the local media  
server.

770. (New) The method defined in claim 753,  
further comprising:  
    storing and playing back on-demand program  
guide data associated with the programs stored by the local  
media server; and  
    presenting program guide data to the user as  
if an associated program were being originally aired.

771. (New) The method defined in claim 753,  
further comprising:  
    determining whether a predetermined number of  
users have indicated a desire to record a program; and  
    directing the local media server to record the  
program when less than the predetermined number of users have  
indicated a desire to record the program.

772. (New) The method defined in claim 753,  
further comprising:  
    determining with the local media server  
whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a  
desire to record a program; and  
    directing the interactive television program  
guide to record the program on storage when less than the

predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

773. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program; and

recording the pay-per-view program with the remote media server in response to the user purchasing the pay-per-view program.

774. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program package having at least one pay-per-view program; and

recording the at least one pay-per-view program of the package with the remote media server in response to the user purchasing the pay-per-view program package.

775. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to record a program grouping having at least one program with the remote media server; and

recording the at least one program of the program grouping with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program grouping.

776. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising indicating to the user that a program cannot be recorded because the program is copy protected.

777. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising preventing the user from selecting a program for recording by the remote media server when the program is copy protected.

778. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising recording program associated data for a program in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program.

779. (New) The method defined in claim 778, wherein the program associated data comprises interactive content.

780. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising displaying a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server.

781. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising displaying program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view a program guide display screen having program listings.

782. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising displaying program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server

and program listings for at least one program that is to be recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view a program guide display screen having program listings.

783. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

generating billing information for at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user in response to the record request; and

charging the user for the at least one program based on a flat fee for recording the program on the remote media server.

784. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

generating billing information for at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

charging the user based on a flat fee for recording programs.

785. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

generating billing information that indicates at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

charging the user for the at least one program based on the length of the program.

786. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to

record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program on the remote media server.

787. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

788. The method defined in claim 732, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

789. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

- generating billing information that indicates at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

- charging the user based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

790. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

- generating billing information that indicates at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

- charging the user based on a flat fee for playing back programs.

791. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

generating billing information that indicates at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

charging the user based on the length of the program.

792. The method defined in claim 732, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

793. The method defined in claim 732, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back programs with the remote media server.

794. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

795. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program in real time;

generating billing information that indicates the cached program; and

charging the user based on a flat fee for caching programs on the remote media server.

796. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

    caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

    generating billing information that indicates the cached program; and

    charging the user based on a flat fee for caching programs.

797. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

    caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

    generating billing information that indicates the program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

    charging the user based on the length of the program.

798. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

    caching a program in real time with the remote media server in response to user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

    indicating to the user a charge for the program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program on the remote media server.



799. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

    caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

    indicating to the user a charge for the program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

800. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

    caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

    indicating to the user a charge for the program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

801. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program with the remote media server.

802. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program with the remote media server.

803. (New) The method defined in claim 732,  
further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to set  
an audio format in which programs are recorded by the remote  
media server; and

recording programs with the remote media  
server in the audio format.

804. (New) The method defined in claim 732,  
further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to set  
a video format in which programs are recorded by the remote  
media server; and

recording programs with the remote media  
server in the video format.

805. (New) The method defined in claim 732,  
further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to set  
a language in which program audio on a digital audio track is  
recorded by the remote media server; and

recording program audio in the language with  
the remote media server.

806. (New) The method defined in claim 732,  
further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined number of  
users have indicated a desire to record a program with the  
remote media server;

playing back the program for which a number of  
users have indicated a desire to record with the remote media  
server according to a schedule if less than the predetermined

number of users indicated a desire to record the program with the remote media server; and

    distributing the program played back by the remote media server according to the schedule to users who indicated a desire to record the program with the remote media server.

807. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

    playing back programs with the remote media server according to a schedule; and

    distributing programs played back by the remote media server according to the schedule to users who indicated a desire to record the programs with the remote media server.

808. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

    automatically caching current programs that are being viewed by users with the remote media server; and

    playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

809. (New) The method defined in claim 732, further comprising:

    automatically caching current programs that are being viewed by a subset of the users with the remote media server; and

    playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the remote media server in response to a user of

the subset of users indicating a desire to view at least a portion of a cached program.

810. (New) A method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand by a remote media server for a number of users, the method comprising:

- providing a user with an opportunity to indicate at least one program for recording by the remote media server;

- providing a record request to the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the at least one program with the remote media server, wherein the record request is provided by an online interactive television program guide implemented at least in part on the Internet service system;

- recording the at least one program in response to the record request provided by the interactive television program guide which is implemented at least in part on the Internet service system;

- providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server, wherein the program listings are for programs recorded in response to the user indicating a desire to record the programs with the remote media server; and

- providing a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server, wherein the programs recorded by the remote media server were indicated by the user for recording by the remote media server.

811. (New) The method defined in claim 810,  
wherein:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings comprises providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server;  
and

providing a directory of program listings comprises displaying a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

812. (New) The method defined in claim 810,  
wherein:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings comprises providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server;  
and

providing a directory of program listings comprises displaying a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

813. (New) The method defined in claim 810,  
further comprising:

overlaying a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server over a program that the user is watching in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

814. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

generating a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program that is recorded with the remote media server;

retrieving the program from the remote media server and providing the program to user television equipment in response to the retrieval request; and

storing the retrieved program on storage of the user television equipment for playback.

815. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view information about at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server; and

providing information about the at least one program in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the at least one program.

816. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to fast-forward the program that is being played back; and

fast-forwarding the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward the program.

817. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to rewind the program that is being played back; and

rewinding the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program.

818. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to stop the program that is being played back; and

stopping the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program.

819. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to pause the program that is being played back; and

pausing the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program.

820. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to cache the program that is being played back; and

caching the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program.

821. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

automatically caching all current programs with the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view at least a portion of a cached program; and

playing back at least a portion of the cached program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view the portion of the cache program.

822. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to delete a program that was recorded by the remote media server; and



deleting the program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program.

823. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising automatically deleting programs with the remote media server.

824. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

playing back at least a portion of a program with the remote media server according to the super-program sequence.

825. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

distributing programs to user television equipment of the user as at least one file; and

storing the at least one file on storage in the user television equipment for playback on the user television equipment.

826. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

storing program guide data associated with the programs recorded by the remote media server for interactive television program guide; and

presenting the program guide data with the interactive television program guide to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

827. (New) The method defined in claim 810,  
further comprising:

receiving record requests for a program at the  
remote media server from user television equipment of a  
plurality of users;

consolidating the record requests into a  
single job; and

recording a single copy of the program for the  
plurality of users according to the job with the remote media  
server.

828. (New) The method defined in claim 810,  
further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined number of  
users have indicated a desire to record a program; and

recording the program indicated by the  
predetermined number of users with the remote media server in  
response to the predetermined number of users indicating a  
desire to record the program.

829. (New) The method defined in claim 810,  
further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined number of  
users have indicated a desire to record a program; and

recording the program on physical media that  
is sent to users who requested the program in response to  
less than the predetermined number of users indicating a  
desire to record the program.

830. (New) The method defined in claim 810,  
further comprising:

recording a program with a local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program with the interactive television program guide; and  
playing back a program with the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program with the interactive television program guide.

831. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising providing a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

832. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising providing a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the local media server.

833. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising providing a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server.

834. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising overlaying a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server over a program that the user is watching in response to the user

indicating a desire to view a directory of the program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

835. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising:

generating a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program recorded by the local media server;

retrieving the program with the local media server; and

storing the retrieved program for playback.

836. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising displaying information about a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the program recorded by the local media server.

837. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising fast-forwarding a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward the program with the interactive television program guide.

838. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising rewinding a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

839. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising stopping a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user

indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

840. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising pausing a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program.

841. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising caching a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

842. The method defined in claim 830, further comprising:

automatically caching all current programs with the local media server; and

playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

843. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising:

generating a playback request indicating a first user when a second user indicates a desire to record a program on the local media server for the first user; and

recording the program with the local media server for the first user in response to the playback request indicating the first user.

844. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising deleting a program recorded by the local

media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

845. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising automatically deleting programs recorded by the local media server.

846. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

playing back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence with the local media server.

847. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising:

storing and playing back on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the local media server; and

presenting program guide data to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

848. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program; and

directing the local media server to record the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

849. (New) The method defined in claim 830, further comprising determining with the local media server

whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and directing the interactive television program guide to record the program on storage when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

850. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program; and

recording the pay-per-view program with the remote media server in response to the user purchasing the pay-per-view program.

851. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program package having at least one pay-per-view program; and

recording the at least one pay-per-view program of the package with the remote media server in response to the user purchasing the pay-per-view program package.

852. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to record a program grouping having at least one program with the remote media server; and

recording the at least one program of the program grouping with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program grouping.

853. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising indicating to the user that a program cannot be recorded because the program is copy protected.

854. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising preventing the user from selecting a program for recording by the remote media server when the program is copy protected.

855. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising recording program associated data for a program in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program.

856. (New) The method defined in claim 855 wherein the program associated data comprises interactive content.

857. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising displaying a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server.

858. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising displaying program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view a program guide display screen having program listings.



859. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising displaying program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is to be recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view a program guide display screen having program listings.

860. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

generating billing information for the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user in response to the record request; and

charging the user for the at least one program based on a flat fee for recording the program on the remote media server.

861. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

generating billing information for the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

charging the user based on a flat fee for recording programs.

862. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

generating billing information that indicates the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

charging the user for the at least one program based on the length of the program.

863. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program on the remote media server.

864. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

865. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

866. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:  
generating billing information that indicates the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and  
charging the user based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

867. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:  
generating billing information that indicates the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

charging the user based on a flat fee for playing back programs.

868. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

generating billing information that indicates the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

charging the user based on the length of the program.

869. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

870. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for a program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back programs with the remote media server.

871. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

872. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

caching a program with the remote media server  
in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a  
program in real time;

        generating billing information that indicates  
the cached program; and

        charging the user based on a flat fee for  
caching programs on the remote media server.

873. (New) The method defined in claim 810,  
further comprising:

        caching a program with the remote media server  
in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a  
program;

        generating billing information that indicates  
the cached program; and

        charging the user based on a flat fee for  
caching programs.

874. (New) The method defined in claim 810,  
further comprising:

        caching a program with the remote media server  
in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a  
program;

        generating billing information that indicates  
the program that the remote media server cached for the user;  
and

        charging the user based on the length of the  
program.

875. (New) The method defined in claim 810,  
further comprising:

caching a program in real time with the remote media server in response to user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

        indicating to the user a charge for the program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program on the remote media server.

876. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

        caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

        indicating to the user a charge for the program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

877. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

        caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

        indicating to the user a charge for the program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

878. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program with the remote media server.

879. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program with the remote media server.

880. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

- providing the user with an opportunity to set an audio format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

- recording programs with the remote media server in the audio format.

881. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

- providing the user with an opportunity to set a video format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

- recording programs with the remote media server in the video format.

882. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

- providing the user with an opportunity to set a language in which program audio on a digital audio track is recorded by the remote media server; and

- recording program audio in the language with the remote media server.

883. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program with the remote media server;

playing back the program for which a number of users have indicated a desire to record with the remote media server according to a schedule if less than the predetermined number of users indicated a desire to record the program with the remote media server; and

distributing the program played back by the remote media server according to the schedule to users who indicated a desire to record the program with the remote media server.

884. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

playing back programs with the remote media server according to a schedule; and

distributing programs played back by the remote media server according to the schedule to users who indicated a desire to record the programs with the remote media server.

885. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

automatically caching current programs that are being viewed by users with the remote media server; and

playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

886. (New) The method defined in claim 810, further comprising:

automatically caching current programs that are being viewed by a subset of the users with the remote media server; and

playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the remote media server in response to a user of the subset of users indicating a desire to view at least a portion of a cached program.